

ATHEENS AS IT IS.—We see Athens in ruins. On the central rock of the Acropolis exist the remains, in a mutilated state, of three temples—the Temple of Victory, the Parthenon, and the Erechtheum; of the Propylæa in the same place; at its western entrance, some walls and a few columns are still standing; of the theatre on the south side of the Acropolis, in which the dramas of Æschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides were represented, some stone steps remain. Not a vestige survives of the courts in which Demosthenes pleaded. There is no trace of the ædifices porches of Plato, or of the Lyceum of Aristotle. The people of the Stoa have vanished; only a few stones of the long walls which run along the plain and united Athens with its harbours are yet visible. Even nature herself appears to have undergone a change. The source of the fountain Callirhoe has almost failed; and the bed of the Ilissus is nearly dry; the harbour of the Piræus is narrowed and made shallow by mud. But while this is so, while we are forcibly and mournfully reminded by this spectacle of the perishable nature of the most beautiful objects which the world has seen, while we read the ruins of those temples of Athens, and in the total extinction of the religion to which they were dedicated, an apology on behalf of Christianity, and a refutation of paganism, more forcible and eloquent than any of those which were composed and presented to the Emperor by Aristides and Quadratus in this place; we are naturally led by it to contrast the permanence and vitality of the spirit, and intelligence which produced these works, of which the vestiges either exist in a condition of ruinous decay, or have entirely disappeared, with the fragility of the material elements of which they are composed. Not at Athens alone are we to look for Athens. The epitaph—Here is the heart; the spirit is everywhere—may be applied to it. From the gates of the Acropolis, as from a mother-city, issued intellectual colonies into every region of the world. These buildings, now before us, ruined as they are, are the remains of two thousand years as models of the most admired fabrics in every civilized world. Having perished here, they survive there: They live in them as in their legitimate offspring. Thus the genius which conceived and executed these magnificent works, while the materials on which it laboured are dissolved, has itself proved immortal. We, therefore, at the present time, having witnessed the fact, have more cogent reasons for admiring the consummate skill which created them, than were possessed by those who saw these structures in their originality, glory, and beauty.—*Wordsworth's Greece.*

ANCIENT RUINS.—We have been informed by a gentleman who has traversed a large portion of the Indian country of Northern Texas and the country lying between Santa Fe and the Pacific, that there are vestiges of ancient cities and ruined castles or temples on the Rio Puerco, and on the Colorado of the West. He says, that no one of the branches of the Rio Puerco, a few days' travel from Santa Fe, there is an immense pile of ruins that appear to belong to an ancient temple. Portions of the wall are still standing, consisting of huge blocks of limestone, heavily bedded, and laid in cement. The building occupies an extent of more than an acre. It is two or three stories high, has no roof, but contains many rooms, generally of a square form, without windows, and the lower rooms are so dark and gloomy that they resemble caverns rather than the apartments of an edifice built for a human habitation. Our informant was unable to describe the style of architecture; but he believes it could not have been erected by Spaniards or Europeans, as the stones are much worn by the rains, and in some places the building stood several hundred years. From his description we are induced to believe that it resembles the ruins of Palenque or Otulun. He says there are many similar ruins on the Colorado of the West, which empties into the Californian Sea. In one of the valleys of the Cordillera traversed by this river, and about 400 miles from its mouth, there is a large temple still standing, its walls and spires presenting scarcely any trace of dilapidation, and were it not for the want of a roof, it might still be rendered habitable. Near it, scattered along the declivity of a mountain, are the ruins of what may have been once a large

city. The traces of a large aqueduct, part of which is, however, in the solid rock, are still visible. Neither the Indians residing in the vicinity, nor the oldest Spanish settlers of the nearest settlements, can give any account of the origin of these buildings, and they merely know that they have stood there from the earliest periods to which these traditions extend.—*Texas Telegraph.*

IN THE REIGN OF EDWARD III., the wages paid to a master carpenter were at the rate of 3d. a day, other carpenters 2d. A master mason 4d. per day, other masons 3d.; and their servants, 1½d. a day. Tilers, 3d., and their tresser, 1½d. Plasterers and other workers of mud walls, in like manner, without meat or drink, and this only from Easter to Michaelmas; during the remainder of the year a reduction was made, according to the direction of the Justice. These wages were increased in the year 1445, reign of Henry IV., to a master mason or carpenter, 4d. a day, or without meat or drink, 5½d. Master tiler or slater, mason, or mender, 6d. a day, or without meat or drink, 4½d. Carpenter, and other artificers concerned in building 3d. a day, or without meat or drink, 4½d. During the reign of Henry VII., there was a like rate of wages, but with a slight advance; for instance, a master carpenter, mason, bricklayer, master tiler, plumber, glazier, carver, and joiner, were each allowed from Easter to Michaelmas to receive 4d. a day, or without meat or drink, 6d.; but from Michaelmas to Easter they were to abate one penny. A master having six men under him was allowed one penny a day extra.

ESTIMATES.

TENDERS delivered for erecting two houses at Stockwell Common, for F. Dansey, Esq.—William Rogers, Esq., Architect:—

Hayward and Nixon	£2751
Nollett	2444
Taylor	2488
Gerry	2139
Wilson	2394

TENDERS for erecting Coal Stores at Ben Jonson's Fields, Stepney, for the Commercial Gas Company:—

J. and J. Ward	£419
Gerry	450
Cooper and Davis	459
Ibbett	400
Wright	423
Blackburn	499
Burmesaw	535

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

TENDERS for a HYDRAULIC PUMP AND APPARATUS for PAVING PIPES.—Directors of the New Gas Company, Aberdeen. Feb. 19.

TENDERS for Two GAS HOLDERS.—Directors of the New Gas Company, Aberdeen. Feb. 19.

WENT LONDON RAILWAY.—Contract for Four first-class Carriages, and three portable three or four-ton Cranes.—Mr. John Thompson, Secretary. Feb. 20.

WORKS REQUIRED FOR THE NEW FISH MARKET, GREAT YARMOUTH.—Plans, &c. to be sent on application to Mr. A. T. Tillet, Esq., Kingston. Great Yarmouth; Town Clerk. Feb. 21, 1844.

YORK AND SCARBORO RAILWAY.—Tenders for 60,000 Larch and Menzel Sleepers.—Secretary of the York and North Midland Railway Company. Feb. 21.

BUILDING A COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM at LITTLEBURY, OXFORD.—Plans, &c., at Mr. R. Clarke's, Architect, Clinton-street, Nottingham, or at the Office of the Clerk of the Peace, Oxford.—J. M. Davenport, Clerk of the Peace. February 22, 1844.

CONTRACT for Building an Infants' School. Room, near St. John's Church, Bury St. Edmunds.—Rev. Robert Rashdell. March 1.

BRIDGINGTON PIER AND HARBOUR.—Erection of a new wharf pier, removal of present pier, and other works for enlargement of Harbour.—Plans and Specifications at the Office of Mr. Sidney Taylor, Solicitor, Bridginton. March 1, 1844.

PARRISH OF ST. GEORGE, HANOVER-SQUARE.—Contract for Workmen's Tools and Instruments, Iron Lamp Posts and Gas Fittings, and for keeping in order the garden in Hanover-square, for one year from the 25th March. R. Lees, Clerk, Board Room, Mount-street. March 6.

PARRISH OF ST. GEORGE, HANOVER-SQUARE.—Contract for Masons' and Pavementers' Work, and supply of Guernsey Granite Chippings, and Yorkshire Limestone, for one year from the 25th March.—Mr. R. Lees, Clerk, Board Room, Mount-street. March 6.

CONTRACT for Removing present Wooden Tower, and erecting a Stone Tower in lieu thereof, with other works, at Preston Hospital, near Warrington. Salop, &c. Mr. J. Haycock, Esq., Architect, Shrewsbury, or at Mr. Potter's, Bridgman-place, Walsall. March 9, 1844.

COMPETITION.

PRIZES of 20 guineas for the best plans and estimates for erecting a new gas, &c. Barnham. All information may be obtained on application to the Town Clerk. March 1, 1844.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

"C. H. S."—The drawing of the material plan has been received, but we request the favour of being furnished with correct details of the carriage, &c. on a larger scale, before our engraver commences.

"I. K. L."—The sketch of the window is been received, and will appear in an early number. The interesting communication of "M. B. B. A." has been received, and the diagrams have been placed in the hands of our engraver.

"A. B. B."—We are unable, at present, to answer the inquiries of our correspondent, relative to the Clerical and Lay Testimonial, to be erected at Westminster. Persons some of our friends in Ireland can inform us whether the design has been selected and arrangements have been made for its completion, or if the time for sending in designs has been extended. In an announcement which appears next week of our first volume, the 1st of January 1844, was the day named for the purpose. The letter of "O. P. Q." came too late for answer this week.

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES.

To-day and during the ensuing week.

SATURDAY, FEB. 17.—*Anatomic*, 14, Graham-street. 2 P.M.; *Westminster Medical*, 52, Buckle-street. 8 P.M.

MONDAY, 19.—*British Architects*, 16, Lower Grosvenor-street, 8 P.M.; *Chemical Society of Arts*, Adelphi, 8 P.M.; *Medical*, Bolt-court. Floor-street, 8 P.M.; *Statistical*, 11, Regent-street. 8 P.M.

TUESDAY, 20.—*Linnæan*, Soho-square, 8 P.M.; *Illustrated*, 21, Regent-street, 8 P.M.; *Civil Engineers*, 25, Great George-street, 8 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, 21.—*Society of Arts*, Adelphi, 8 P.M.; *Geological*, Somerset House, 8 P.M.; *London Institution*, Finsbury-circle, 7 P.M.

THURSDAY, 22.—*Royal*, Somerset House, 4 P.M.; *Antiquaries*, Somerset House, 8 P.M.; *Royal Society of Literature*, 4, St. Martin's place, 4 P.M.; *Medico-Botanical*, 32, Buckle-street, 8 P.M.; *Naturalists*, 41, Tavistock-street, Covent Garden, 7 P.M.

FRIDAY, 23.—*Royal Institution*, Albemarle-street, 8 P.M.; *Philosophical*, 49, Pall Mall. 8 P.M.

SATURDAY, 24.—*Royal Balm*, Regent's park, 4 P.M.; *Westminster Medical*, 52, Buckle-street, 8 P.M.

BRITISH MUSEUM.—Open to the public every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 10 till 12 during May, June, July, and August, and from 10 till 1 the rest of the year; except the first week in January, May, and September, Ash-Wednesday Good Friday, and Christmas Day, and Fast and Thanksgiving Days. The Natural History Collections are open for study and comparison of specimens, to persons having permission, on Tuesday and Thursday from 10 till 4. The Reading Room is open to persons having tickets of admission every day (except Sundays, and when the Museum is closed, as above mentioned), from 9 till 5 P.M., June, July, and August, and from 9 till 12 during the rest of the year. The Gallery of Antiquities is open to students having tickets of admission every day (except Sundays, and when the Museum is closed, as above mentioned), from 10 till 4; and from the 1st of April to the 1st of September, from 10 till half-past 5.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS.—The Museum is open to visitors on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, from 12 till 4, except during the month of September, on Friday to gentlemen for studying in it; and on Saturday from 10 till 12 gentlemen desirous of comparing specimens with those in the Museum. The Library is open to members and students of the College on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, daily (Sundays excepted), from the 1st of October to the 1st of April, from 10 till 4; and from the 1st of April to the 1st of September, from 10 till half-past 5.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.—Library open on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, and on Wednesday and Friday, from 12 o'clock to 4 in the afternoon.